

## **EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF) 6 MASS CARE**

### **PRIMARY AGENCIES:**

Cities' Emergency Management Organizations  
King County Government

- Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
- Emergency Coordination Center (ECC)

Private Sector Organizations  
King & Kitsap Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross

### **SUPPORT AGENCIES:**

Public Health-Seattle & King County (PHSKC)  
Amateur Radio Organizations in King County

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Purpose**

The purpose of this Emergency Support Function (ESF) is to facilitate a regional approach to prioritizing; establishing and maintaining mass care capabilities throughout King County. Mass Care services include shelters, emergency feeding, first aid, and disaster welfare information.

### **B. Scope**

This ESF encompasses all local government agencies, special purpose districts, non-profit, and private industries in the King County region that are signatories to the Regional Disaster Plan for Public and Private Organizations in King County, Washington (hereby referred as the Regional Disaster Plan, RDP). It addresses responsibilities and priorities for mass care services that are needed by these agencies during emergencies. Specific protocols regarding shelter setup and organization will be found in the standard operating procedures and checklists of participating jurisdictions.

Mass care in King County is a shared responsibility between county government, incorporated cities, selected special purpose districts and businesses, the King & Kitsap Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross (hereby referred to as ARC), and other non-profit agencies such as the Salvation Army.

This ESF also defines the parties involved and their responsibilities for providing mass care throughout King County.

## **II. POLICIES**

- A. Participants of the Regional Disaster Plan will assist in the coordination; set-up and operations of mass care services during disasters that affect the King County region. Incorporated jurisdictions will perform emergency management functions within their jurisdictional boundaries as mandated by RCW 38.52.070. A collaborative response by public, private and nonprofit organizations will greatly benefit and facilitate mass care services throughout the King County region.
- B. Following a disaster, mass care services within the King County region will be established based on the following criteria:
  - Geographical area, population, and jurisdictions impacted by the disaster event.
  - Amount of mass care resources available.
- C. ARC will provide staff, supplies, and shelters as disaster conditions dictate and resources allow, in accordance with the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-288, as amended by the Stafford Act of 1988).
- D. The RDP, ESF-6 will be implemented based on the impacts of major natural or technological disaster events within the King County region. Each Emergency Coordination Zone (see map on page 8) will determine its need for shelters and will activate shelters using resources within the Zones. If the disaster event impacts the entire King County Region, or emergency coordination zone or zones are short of resources, the King County Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) will make decisions regarding the location and activation of shelters. Such decisions will be based upon available resources, maximum shelter populations and condition of impact areas served.
- E. Appropriate federal, state, and local jurisdiction, voluntary agency, and private sector resources will be used as available.
- F. Mass care shelters are temporary in nature and are designed for people displaced as a result of emergency incidents or disasters. All mass care and shelter services will attempt, but not guaranteed, to meet current requirements for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ARC standards. Services will be provided without regard to economic status or racial, religious, political, ethnic, or other affiliation.

- G. Disaster Welfare Information is provided by the American Red Cross (see Regional Disaster Plan ESF-8). The listing of event related deaths will be limited to officially confirmed fatalities.
- H. Shelters for pets and livestock may be activated if time, resources, and staff are available from local veterinary and volunteer animal care organizations. Pets and livestock shelters will be separated from shelters for citizens.
- I. All reasonable and practical steps will be taken to ensure that shelters do not become contaminated.

### **III. SITUATION**

#### **A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards**

King County is vulnerable to all of the natural and technological disaster events that are detailed in the King County Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis (HIVA). Historically, disasters in King County tend to have cumulative impacts that disrupt utility, communications, medical, transportation, and food service systems at the same time. Because of those impacts, emergency response efforts can be seriously reduced. The movement of disaster supplies and service providers, emergency workers, and volunteers can be impeded. Professional emergency responders may be unable or delayed in reaching their assigned organizations due to injury, death, transportation system failures, or family problems.

There may be a requirement for shelter sites for hundreds to thousands of people that are impacted by the disaster. Many will be separated from their families due to impassible transportation routes and gridlock.

#### **B. Planning Assumptions**

The local and regional utilities, communications, lifelines, medical and transportation systems and networks will sustain damage. Disaster response and recovery activities will be difficult to coordinate.

Public, private and nonprofit organizations, and the general public will have to utilize their own resources and be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days, possibly longer.

No single agency or organization will be able to satisfy all emergency resource requests during a major emergency or disaster.

The Emergency Coordination Zones will effectively function in identifying and coordinating resources for mass care within each Zone.

A partnership approach will be needed between public, private, and volunteer agencies in order to provide sheltering for large-scale disaster events in King County.

Cities in King County will provide their own shelters using city staff, resources, and facilities. Mutual aid resources will be utilized for small events, but unable to meet the needs of a large-scale emergency or disaster.

Shortages of emergency response personnel will exist creating a need for auxiliary fire, police, search and rescue, emergency medical, transit, public works, utilities, health, shelter management and support personnel. Private sector and voluntary organization support may be needed to augment disaster response and recovery efforts.

#### **IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

##### **A. General**

During small local disasters when the King County ECC is not activated, the American Red Cross (ARC) in partnership with the affected city, will provide shelter and mass care services coordinated through the chapter headquarters, in accordance with their Chapter Disaster Response Plan, as appropriate to their operational capacity.

When larger-scale disasters impact and overtax individual cities, the city will request support from its Emergency Coordination Zone. Each Emergency Coordination Zone will determine its need for shelters and will activate shelters as resources permit. When an Emergency Coordination Zone is short of mass care resources, it will forward a request for shelter to the King County Emergency Coordination Center. Requests for shelters will be coordinated through the King County ECC following a major disaster impacting King County, or when requested by an Emergency Coordination Zone. Shelter requests will be prioritized and coordinated by the ECC Health and Human Services Group representatives consisting of the King County Parks and Recreation Division, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Seattle-King Department of Public Health, and selected Zone organizations as needed.

When the King County ECC is activated, placement, coordination, operations, and support of shelters will be a cooperative effort between the King County ECC, Emergency Coordination Zones, the Red Cross and selected social service agencies. The King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks (DNRP) will designate shelter coordinators to staff the King County ECC during activations, and be the primary agency in King County government for mass care.

**B. Organization**

When the King County ECC is activated, the ECC Health and Human Services Group will coordinate the placement, opening, and support of shelters and mass care activities, in coordination with the Regional Coordination Zones, the American Red Cross, and other selected voluntary and business organizations.

When disaster events impact on an individual city, it will utilize its own resources for mass care in accordance with its comprehensive emergency management plan as mandated by RCW 38.52. Should the event overtax the city, it will proclaim a disaster and request support from its Regional Coordination Zone. The Zone in-turn will request assistance from the King County ECC if its resources are overwhelmed.

**C. Procedures**

The American Red Cross maintains procedures for the opening and management of shelters. Procedures for identifying city and King County Government Parks that can be used for shelters are maintained by individual cities and the King County DNRP ECC representatives. All shelters opened and managed by cities and King County will be in accordance with American Red Cross standards. All procedures for support of shelters are maintained by the appropriate support agencies.

**D. Response / Recovery Activities**

All response and recovery activities are detailed in jurisdictional plans and procedures, and appropriate state and federal recovery guidelines.

## **V. RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. Primary Agencies**

- 1. Cities' Emergency Management Organizations shall:**  
Provide mass care in accordance with their comprehensive emergency management plan as mandated in RCW 38.52. All shelters will be managed in accordance with nationally recognized American Red Cross standards. If overwhelmed, the impacted cities will proclaim a disaster and request aid from their Emergency Coordination Zone. Private sector organizations will provide support for mass care if resources are available.
- 2. King County Government shall:**  
Provide mass care in accordance with their comprehensive emergency management plan as mandated in RCW 38.52. King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Recreation Division will provide staff and resources to set up and manage shelters in unincorporated King County in partnership with the American Red Cross, and in selected cities with mutual aid agreements. All shelters will be managed in accordance with nationally recognized American Red Cross standards. Private sector organizations will provide support for mass care if resources are available.
- 3. Regional Emergency Coordination Zones shall:**  
Provide support to cities in their zone for mass care by identifying and coordinating public, private, and volunteer resources within the Zone. All shelters will be managed in accordance with nationally recognized American Red Cross standards. If the impacted zone is overwhelmed, it will request aid through the King County ECC.
- 4. Private Sector Organizations shall:**  
Provide support for mass care in the cities in which they reside if resources are available.
- 5. King & Kitsap Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross & Salvation Army shall:**  
Provide representatives in the King County ECC, for coordination of shelter requests as part of the Health and Human Services Team. Provide mass care for localized events not requiring activation of the King County ECC.

Utilize initial resources (staff, supplies, locations) to provide mass care shelters, feeding, and emergency first aid during large disaster events if available. Resources and staff for emergency food service supporting shelters and responders, if resources permit.

**B. Support Agencies**

- 1. Public Health Seattle-King County shall:**  
As a King County department, will provide inspections and health services to shelters throughout the King County Region.
- 2. Amateur Radio Organizations in King County shall:**  
If resources are available, provide portable communications capability between shelters and emergency coordination zones.

**VI. REFERENCES**

- RCW 38.52
- Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- King County Emergency Management Plan
- Local Emergency Management Plans within King County
- Chapter Disaster Response Plan for American Red Cross Serving King & Kitsap Counties
- American Red Cross Regulations 3000, 3030
- Regional Disaster Plan, Basic Plan

## VII. EMERGENCY COORDINATION ZONE MAP

